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## **Families and Michigan tourism would benefit with post-Labor Day school start**

**LANSING** – Michigan parents, students and tourism-related business owners would gain by starting schools after Labor Day under legislation approved by the Senate on Tuesday, said Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood.

Senators approved House Bill 4803, which would require the post-Labor Day start. The new starting date would allow parents to take longer trips during the extended weekend without having their children miss school days.

“This is a much needed jolt for the tourism industry and the state economy in general,” Hardiman said “I was happy to support the initiative.”

Starting school after Labor Day would generate an estimated \$10 million more in tourism-related tax revenue for the state. The added tourism also would create an estimated 2,000 new jobs and between \$100 million and \$200 million in economic activity.

One recent poll out found that nearly two-thirds of Michigan voters said they supported having schools open after Labor Day, showing widespread public support for the change.

Under HB 4803, if a collective bargaining agreement conflicts with the provisions of the bill, it would not apply until after the expiration date of the collective-bargaining agreement.

The bill now goes back to the House of Representatives for consideration of Senate changes.

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